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# Iowa AgriNews

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## PRICES

The average price received by farmers for **corn** in Iowa was \$3.47 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Agricultural Prices* report. This is down \$0.01 from the February price, and \$0.36 lower than March 2015.

The March 2016 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at \$8.46 per bushel, was \$0.10 more than the February price, but \$1.30 lower than the March 2015 price.

The March average **oat** price per bushel was \$2.83, up \$0.42 from February, but \$0.44 below March 2015.

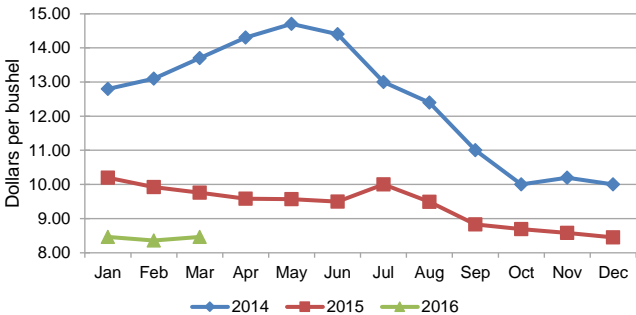
**All hay** prices in Iowa averaged \$97.00 per ton in March, \$29.00 per ton less than March 2015. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell \$30.00 per ton from one year ago, to \$102.00 and **other hay** prices were \$14.00 per ton lower than last year, at \$82.00.

The March average price was \$15.50 per cwt for **milk**, down \$0.10 from February, and \$1.40 per cwt below one year ago. Prices for replacement milk cows averaged \$1,860 in April.

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Soybean Price Received by Farmers - Iowa



### Prices Received by Farmers – Iowa and United States

	Iowa			United States		
	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Corn .....	3.83	3.48	3.47	3.81	3.57	3.57
Hay, all, baled .....	126.00	101.00	97.00	157.00	136.00	138.00
Alfalfa .....	132.00	107.00	102.00	169.00	142.00	144.00
Other .....	96.00	83.00	82.00	140.00	125.00	126.00
Oats .....	3.27	2.41	2.83	2.96	2.21	2.20
Soybeans .....	9.76	8.36	8.46	9.85	8.51	8.56
Milk, all .....	16.90	15.60	15.50	16.60	15.70	15.30
Milk cows <sup>1 2</sup> .....	1,950.00	1,860.00	1,860.00	1,970.00	1,830.00	1,820.00

<sup>1</sup> Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October.  
<sup>2</sup> Milk cow prices are for April 2015, January 2016, and April 2016.

## HAY STOCKS

**Dry hay** stored on Iowa farms as of May 1, 2016, was estimated at 620,000 tons, a decrease of 11 percent from May 2015, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Crop Production report. Disappearance from December 1, 2015 – May 1, 2016, totaled 2.66 million tons, up 18 percent from the 2.25 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

### Hay Stocks on Farms – Iowa and United States: December 1 and May 1, 2014-2016

	December 1		May 1	
	2014	2015	2015	2016
	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Iowa .....	2,950	3,280	700	620
United States .....	92,052	94,993	24,517	25,140

AG LABOR

There were 19,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of January 10-16, 2016, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.23 per hour, up \$0.55 from January 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 36.1 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.6 hours in January 2015.

During the reference week of April 10-16, 2016, there were 22,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.17 per hour during the April 2016 reference week, up \$1.09 from April 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 37.0 hours in April 2015.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2015-2016

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	April 2015	January 2016	April 2016	April 2015	January 2016	April 2016
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	25	19	22	687	582	703
Hours worked by hired workers .....hours per week	37.0	36.1	37.8	39.9	38.8	40.4
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined.....dollars per hour	11.30	13.05	13.10	11.43	11.91	12.00
Field ..... dollars per hour	10.92	13.26	12.89	11.36	11.84	12.00
Livestock ..... dollars per hour	11.79	12.97	13.26	11.58	12.02	12.01
All hired workers ..... dollars per hour	12.08	13.23	13.17	12.28	12.83	12.75

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

Honey bee colonies for operations with 5 or more colonies in Iowa as of January 1, 2016 totaled 16.5 thousand colonies. This is 32 percent above the 12.5 thousand colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 12.5 thousand, 29.0 thousand, and 35.0 thousand, respectively. The quarter of July-September 2015 had the largest maximum number of colonies, with 37.0 thousand, while January-March 2016 had the smallest maximum number of colonies with 16.5 thousand.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with 5 or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 was 3,200, 3 percent above the number lost during the same quarter the year before. With 19 percent of the maximum colonies lost, this was the highest percent of colonies lost during the 5 quarters. The quarter April-June 2015, at 6 percent or 1,400 colonies, showed the smallest loss.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with 5 or more colonies during each of the quarters surveyed. The quarter of January-March 2016 showed varroa mites affected 41.6 percent of Iowa’s honey bee colonies. The quarter of October-December 2015 showed the highest percentage affected by varroa mites at 53.4 percent.

Honey Bee Colonies – Iowa: 2015-2016

[Operations with 5 or more colonies.]

	First of the quarter number of colonies <sup>1</sup>	Maximum colonies <sup>2</sup>	Lost colonies	Percent lost <sup>3</sup>	Added colonies	Renovated colonies <sup>4</sup>	Percent renovated <sup>5</sup>
	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Jan-Mar 2015 .....	12,500	17,500	3,100	18	1,700	270	2
Apr-Jun 2015.....	12,500	24,000	1,400	6	6,500	3,100	13
Jul-Sep 2015 .....	29,000	37,000	3,000	8	640	680	2
Oct-Dec 2015 .....	35,000	35,000	4,300	12	40	30	(Z)
Jan-Mar 2016 .....	16,500	16,500	3,200	19	90	-	-

- Represents zero.  
(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.  
<sup>1</sup> Number of colonies in the state as of the first day of the quarter.  
<sup>2</sup> Number of colonies in the state on the first day of the quarter plus all colonies moved into state during the quarter.  
<sup>3</sup> Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the maximum colonies.  
<sup>4</sup> Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.  
<sup>5</sup> Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by the maximum colonies.

Colony Health – Iowa: 2015-2016

[Operations with 5 or more colonies, percent of colonies affected by stressor. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors.]

	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 2015 .....	26.0	0.7	4.6	3.4	18.0	3.4
Apr-Jun 2015.....	21.5	5.1	2.9	7.8	2.7	1.9
Jul-Sep 2015 .....	17.4	5.8	0.1	4.7	5.6	3.4
Oct-Dec 2015 .....	53.4	0.9	0.6	6.4	24.8	1.4
Jan-Mar 2016 .....	41.6	0.5	(Z)	2.1	34.4	12.2

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.  
<sup>1</sup> Tracheal mites, nosea, hive beetle, wax moths, etc.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sabrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.  
<sup>3</sup> Includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.